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PATENT
DOCKET NO. VRO-004.01

In re Application of:

Downey, et al.

Application No: 09/996,446

Filed: November 28, 2001

For: Athermal Annealing with Rapid
Thermal Annealing System and
Method

Art Unit: 2812

Examiner: NYA

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make of record the patents and publications listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of the patents and publications are enclosed.

REMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97, this statement is being filed:

- ☐ (1) within three (3) months of the **filing date** of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d), or within three (3) months of the **date of entry of the national stage** as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing of the **first Office Action** on the merits, or before the mailing of a **first Office Action** after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114; or
- ☒ (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a **final action** or a **notice of allowance** under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, and
 - ☒ the requisite Statement is below, **OR**
 - ☐ the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00**, is included herein, or

- ☐ (3) after the mailing date of a **final action** or **notice of allowance** but before the payment of the **issue fee**, **AND**
- ☐ the requisite Statement is below, **AND**
- ☐ the requisite petition fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00** is included herein.

It is respectfully requested that each of the patents and publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, be made of record in this application.

STATEMENT


As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), Applicant(s), through the undersigned, hereby state either that [check the appropriate space only if either (2) or (3) is checked on the previous page and the Statement is required]:

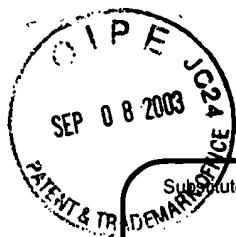
- ☒ 1. Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application **not more than three months** prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or
- ☐ 2. No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to **any individual** designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) **more than three months** prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Date: September 4, 2003
Reg. No. 42,049

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Respectfully submitted,


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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	09/996,446
		Filing Date	November 28, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Downey
		Art Unit	2812
		Examiner Name	NYA
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	VRO-004.01	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
	AA	US-6,051,483	04-18-2000	Lee, et al.	
	AB	US- 4,490,183	12-25-1984	Scovell	
	AC	US- 4,303,455	12-01-1981	Splinter	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ³
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	AD	WO 01/71787 A1	09-27-2001	Felch, et al.		
	AE	EP 1 130 659 A1	05-09-2001	Tsai, et al.		

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	AF	THOMPSON, K., Electromagnetic Induction Heating for Cold Wall Rapid Thermal Processing, 9 th International Conference on Advanced Thermal Processing of Semiconductors - RTP 2001, No. 7419519, 25 - 29 September 2001, pages 190-196, XP002248749, USA, Anchorage.	
	AG	FUKANO, T., Microwave Annealing for Low Temperature VLSI Processing, International Electron Devices Meeting, Washington, December 1 - 4, 1985, Washington, IEEE, US, December 1985 (1985-12), pages 224-227, XP000842652.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages); PTO/SB/08a (1449A) (1 page); PCT International Search Report (4 pages); References AA - AG; and a Return Receipt Postcard.

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